in Karnataka, the Kisan Plant and, in Andhra, the Wimco Plant for fruits and vegetable processing. But they are having today only about 15 per cent of their capacity utilization which is very sad because on the one hand we want to encourage agro-industries and, on the other hand, we see that they get sick. I would like to know what the plan of the Government is to identify the zones so that industries can go to the particular zones where fruits and vegetables are available and you do not set up units in isolation. So, I would like to know what the Ministry thinks in the matter. On the contrary, in surplus States like Himachal Pradesh, the HPMC has got large quanatities of apple juice concentrate which is lying idle. So, I would like to know what you are going to do and how you are going to plan these things.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, it is a fact that the initial planning has not been thought of properly. If I were to go by the figures which have been given to me, fruit and vegetable production has gone up from 54,274 tonnes in 1970 to 1,97,613 tonnes in 1987 and it has further gone up to 2,15,000 tonnes in 1988 and it has further gone up now. Also, the number of licences which were being given under the Food and Vegetable Order, 1985, has gone up from 1,904 to 3,364. Now, there are certain reasons which we have come to know—we made a study—and one of them is that the units are of a very small nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Delay in the setting up of gas-based fertiliser projects

*65. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for inordinate delay in the setting up of two gas-based fertizer projects in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): The delay in the settng up of the gas-based fertiliser project in Rajasthan has been mainly due to the shifting of the original site at Sawai Madhopur to a new location at Gadepan in Kota District in order to conform to environmental guidelines. In the case of the Babrala project, the delay was caused by the promoters' proposals to change the product pattern and to merge M/s. Tara Fertilizers Ltd. with the parent company to improve the financial viability of the project.

Setting up of pests and disease control centres in Assam

*66. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pests and diseases control centers which have been set up in Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) the number and locations of such centres proposed to be set up in that state in 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No Central Plant Protection Station, meant for surveillance and control of pests and diseases in agriculture crops, has been set up in Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) No such new Centre is proposed to be set up during 1989-90.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

*67. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in